

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claim 32 is currently being added.

Claims 1-6, 10, 12, 30 and 31 are currently being canceled.

No claims are currently being amended.

This amendment and reply cancels and adds claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After canceling and adding the claims as set forth above, claims 24 and 32 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication in the final Office Action and the Advisory Action that claim 24 is allowed. New dependent claim 32 depends from allowed claim 24. Support for new dependent claim 32 may be found on page 27, lines 12-22 and page 28, lines 21-24 of the specification, for example.

Claim Objections:

In the final Office Action, claim 10 was objected to, for reasons set forth on page 2 of the final Office Action. Due to the cancellation of claim 10, this objection has been rendered moot.

Claim Rejections – Indefiniteness:

In the final Office Action, claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite, for the reasons set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the final Office Action. Due to the cancellation of claim 12, this rejection is now moot.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the final Office Action, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0097495 to Mei; claims 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mei in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,379,867 to Mei; and claims 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0000426 to Mead et al. in view of Mei and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,691,541 to Ceglio et al. Due to the cancellation of claims 1-6, 10, 12, 30 and 31, these rejections are now moot.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues addressed in the final Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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